THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India has undertaken the construction of a new runway of 8000 feet length to enable larger aircraft to land and take-off from Bajpe Airport, Mangalore. The work is expected to start during the current financial year and likely to be completed in two years.

Unauthorised travel in Air India flights

662. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported travelling of unauthorised persons by Air India flights to various places with the help of Air India staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against such people and the staff involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI)I : (a) to (c) four inadmissible passengers were intercepted by Immigration Service of the United Kingdom at the London Heathrow Airport after they arrived on Air India flight AI-111 of 20th October, 2001.Two out of the four passengers suspected to be Afghan nationals had checked in as Domestic Passengers for Delhi but travelled onwards to London on the same flight whereas, the other two passengers had boarded the flight at New Delhi and travelled to London on forged. A High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of secretary (Security). Cabinet Secretariat to enquire into the incident, found involvement of two travel agents and four employees of Air India Limited. The two agents were arrested by Mumbai police and a chargesheet has been filed against them which is pending trial before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Mumbai. Out of the four employees in Air India, the services of one Assistant Manager has been terminated for his alleged involvement in the stowaway case and the remaining three officials have been transferred from Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport to the Air India Headquarters, Mumbai for their suspected involvement in abetting illegal activities.